



# **Spanaway Lutheran Church**

2018 Annual Report

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## **Our Mission**

To live as God's people spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## **Our Vision**

We tell the story of God's grace, calling people to live in faith through God's love.

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**Annual Meeting of  
Spanaway Lutheran Congregation  
Sunday Post-Service, November 18, 2018  
Agenda**

**We assemble in God's name:** Fellowship Hall

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor John Schier-Hanson

**Approve Minutes:** Kathy Creso

November 19, 2017 Congregational Meeting

**The John Briehl "Oaks of Righteousness" Awards:** Presentation

**Elections:**

- Church Council: Three members to be elected for a three-year term: Current  
2016: John Briehl, Louise Luberts and Gregg Wright Osborn  
2017: Angela Aponte (for Richard Montoya,) Rob DeZarn and Nancy Vignec  
2018: Anne Briehl, Doug Hedlund and Glen Ruediger  
Nominees, Term 2019-2021: X, Y and Z
- Departing Council: John Briehl, Louise Luberts and Gregg Wright Osborn
- 2019 Nominating Ministry Team, Term 2020-2022:  
Council Member 1:  
Council Member 2:

(Note: Two additional members are elected from the congregation by Council.)

- Lay Delegates to 2019 Synod Assembly, June 6-7, 2019, Vancouver Hilton Hotel.

2019 Delegates: XX: \_\_\_\_\_ XY: \_\_\_\_\_

2019 Alternates: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Reports: Q&A**

- Pastor Schier-Hanson
- Church Council

**Committees, Standing Ministry Teams and Specific Reports: Q&A**

- BASE
- Congregational Life
- Outreach (Community Garden/Food Bank/Food for Families)
- Physical Admin. (Wednesday Warriors)
- Stewardship
- Worship and Music
- Youth (Connect)/Youth Education (Preschool)

**Approval of Budget:**

Treasurer's Report with Q&A

**Reports: Special Committees:**

- Bylaw Revision Committee: revisit, spring 2019
- Committee Reorganization/Every Member Engagement: status

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

Homeless On Our Doorstep: status

**New/Upcoming Business:**

Phone/Internet Service Contract, etc.: review options prior to Feb. 2019  
renewal/replacement: memo

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Schier-Hanson

**Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday 1:00 pm, November 20, 2018 (Conference Room)**

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday 6:00 pm, November 27, 2018 (Fellowship Hall)**

**Next Annual Meeting of SLC Congregation: Sunday post-service, November 24, 2019 (Fellowship Hall)**

**Adjournment: We give thanks to God, and go out to live as God's people,  
Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.**

## **2017 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

November 19, 2017

Meeting was called to order by congregational president, Gregg Wright Osborn.

Correction to pastor's report, should read 2016-2017, Pastoral Acts Report

Gregg asked the membership how many looked at the web site to read the congregational report. Six hands went up. Fewer hands were raised when asked about face book.

Pastor arrived and led the congregation assembled in prayer.

M/S/C to approve the November 20, 2016, minutes.

The John Briehl Oaks of Righteousness award was presented to Jim Halmo and Elois Macdonald.

M/S/C to unanimously elect Anne Briehl, Doug Hedlund, and Glenn Ruediger to council for the 2018-2019-2020 term.

Gregg recognized those going off council: Judy Burwell, Mike Doyle, and Doug Hedlund, the latter completing Diane Kraus' term.

M/S/C to elect John Briehl and Rob DeZarn to the 2018 nominating committee.

There will be no Synod Convention in 2018, rather, representatives from the different Lutheran Churches will attend a Synod Educational Gathering. Date and topic unknown at this time. Sharon Dillinger, Sara Briehl, and Ron Morris volunteered to be our representatives.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Pastor's report was amended to include the marriage of Steve and Sharon Blacksten.

BASE: Nancy Vignec clarified that following the completion of one more action, the task force will dissolve itself. She further thanked Mary Herem for her work with the BASE budget.

CL and Miriam Circle: No additions to the report.

Quilters: Lois Svinth announced that 6 quilts were given to women, infants, and children, and 9 quilts were given to the Bethel School District.

Outreach: Jeris Ockfen reported that 152 community people attended the Fiesta Health Fair.

Paint Tacoma Beautiful: Mary Herem spoke about the house that was painted this year and invited all of us to join the group next year.

Physical Administration: No additions to their report.

Per Gregg, Paul Matthias has agreed to serve as the contact for council for this committee.

Community Garden: Gregg reported that as of yesterday (11-18-17), we have one more raised bed thanks to Alex Wildfang and his Boy Scout project. Mike Luberts, "The man who can get everything donated", was thanked for all of his work, the latest being the acquisition of old timbers from Pierce Co. Gregg thanked all who turned out for the fall clean up on the 18th which included SLC members, boy scouts, and members of the Korean church.

Sunday School: Stefanie DeZarn reported that Pastor has 3-5 students in his class and she has 1-7, depending on the day. Classes now meet after worship from 11:30 am -12:15 pm.

Preschool: Ellen McCracken gave thanks to God for a place to hold this ministry. She now has 11 students.

Stewardship: Jim Halmo reminded us that in addition to regular giving, it is important to stay focused on reducing our mortgage debt.

Worship and Music: Lydia Wise talked about their summer project of putting down on paper all of the jobs for which they are responsible and the tasks required to perform them. She reminded us that there will be a 7:00 pm Thanksgiving service (other churches in the area to be invited), and also a 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

Youth and Youth Education: Stefanie DeZarn reported there is a total of 12 students in the Connect program. The committee is working with other Lutheran churches in the area for greater involvement. They enjoy working with the PLU students. ALYVE (American Lutheran Youth Various Endeavors) - only 2 kids went to camp. The youth auction will take place and will have a Mexican menu. There will be VBS next summer. The next youth gathering will be in Houston, Texas.

Food Bank: Gail Halmo - focusing more on the homeless and appropriate food to give to them. Ron Morris announced the food bank has received more protein food from the commissary than has ever been received before. The Thanksgiving offering will go to the food bank towards a new freezer.

Food for Families: Louise Luberts (new coordinator). Other members include Laurel and Gregg Wright Osborn, Edna Coonc, Larry Oty, Susanne Delisle, and Nancy Tengsdahl. There is a need for blankets, hats, mittens, etc. for the homeless. Thanks for the donation of turkeys.

M/S/C to accept the reports as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Committee Reorganization - John Briehl reported that people work hard and get things done; however, it is difficult to find people to own and take responsibility for ongoing jobs. Currently there is a need to find key people to chair committees. One of the problems is that we have a committee structure that is archaic. To address this a Task Force was formed to work on restructuring our system. In the meantime pastor heard of a program at Phinney Ridge in Seattle that he wanted to explore while on his sabbatical and asked that further work be placed on hold. It was found that their program would not be a fit for SLC. Council voted to return to the structure previously being reviewed. The tentative plan is to pare down 7 committees to 5. The Task Force is soliciting input in anticipation of resuming after the first of the year. On a related issue, our constitution and bylaws speak to the turnover of committee members. This will also be looked at by the Task Force, which is made up of Sharon Dillinger, Chuck Nelson, Nancy Vignec, and John Briehl.

New Business: Discussion regarding the following:

1. Homeless at our doors.
2. Need a safe place for our BASE children.
3. Some signs have been put up.
4. How can we make property more secure?
5. Need to look at the issue of helping the homeless and also maintaining safety for the children.
6. Need to be diligent that building is always locked.
7. Sharon Dillinger suggested contacting the county regarding the issue.

Pastoral Housing Allowance: A portion of pastor's compensation package is designated for housing allowance and has to be approved by council. This will be discussed at the next council meeting on 11-18-17.

Revised constitution: The Synod has a model constitution which includes many terminology changes. Mary Herem walked us thru many of these changes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised constitution. Following discussion the motion was withdrawn. The revised constitution and bylaws will be posted on the web site and copies will be available in the office for review. Approval of these documents was tabled to a later date.

Reminder by Gregg, election of council officers will take place at the next council meeting.

In response to a question about the position of Administrative Assistant, John Briehl reported that Nick DuPont was in an automobile accident in July and has not worked since then. John said that he could not speak to Nick's medical condition. John further reported that Stefanie DeZarn is performing 2/3 of Nick's duties and Mary Herem the remaining financial duties. It is recognized that the office is not fully staffed 5 days a week; however, this is a temporary situation that is being addressed by the council but may take a little time.

Closing prayer by Pastor  
Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Kathleen Creso

We give thanks to God  
We go out to live as God's people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

## 2018 Pastor's Report

*<sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. <sup>36</sup> You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. <sup>37</sup> For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." <sup>38</sup> And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." (Hebrews 10:35-38)*

Brothers and sister in Christ,

This past year has been a time of renewal in which we have seen many improvements and innovations in our congregational life. There have been improvements in our building and grounds, our ministries, our leadership's structure, and meeting our financial obligations. I give thanks that during this time of increased effort Spanaway Lutheran Church's mission and ministry has continued to be strongly supported by our congregation. BASE continues to be one of the finest and most well regarded programs of its kind in the Bethel School District. Food for Families continues to reach out to give hope and support to needy households. Our Spanaway Food Bank team does its work month after month ensuring that families in our community have enough to eat. Our Health Fiesta continues to grow in scope and popularity every year. And SLC's Paint Tacoma Pierce County Beautiful completed it 28<sup>th</sup> house painting. I am filled with gratitude knowing that I shepherd a flock devoted to serving our neighbors in Jesus' name.

Many thanks to the anonymous donor who gave a designated gift to replace the fellowship hall flooring. Because of this gift and many volunteer hours we have seen significant improvement to our Jacob's Fellowship Hall. The entire fellowship hall was repainted by congregational volunteers before installing the new flooring. A beautiful water resistant commercial laminate floor was installed also by volunteers, and new vertical blind now grace the room replacing the accordion blinds, most of which no longer functioned. The fellowship Hall video projector was upgraded when the former sanctuary video projector was installed by John Herem. In turn, the former fellowship hall video projector was permanently installed in the conference room; also by John Herem. The refurbished space now provides a welcoming space for fellowship time and receptions for weddings, funerals and other occasions.

Thanks to a donation by Burton Nettet and Phyllis Templin a wrought iron fence now encloses the courtyard and memorial garden and provides a safe place for our growing preschool to play outside. The fence is an elegant edition to the area proving both security and preventing property damage.

After many years and thanks to the groundwork of Doug Hedlund our parking lot received much needed attention. The parking lot striping was repainted, and teams continue the work of removing all the moss that has accumulated by pressure washing and the use of baking soda.

As always our Wednesday Warriors toil away to keep our property and building in good repair and well maintained. Very few people truly know how much these guys do; thanks Glen Ruediger, John Herem, Larry Parsons, Paul Matthias, Iver Eliason, John Briehl, Steve Howe, Tim Tengesdal and Dustin Willoughby.

After a long search for a water leak, ultimately detected by Michael Luberts and Tim Tengesdal, the offending toilets in the A Street restrooms have been replaced by low flow dual flush toilets. Because of another suspected leak in the BASE restrooms, John McAuliffe, Glen Ruediger and myself replaced necessary supply water pipes as well as replacing all the toilets and urinals which will reduce the water usage by 70%.

Our Community Garden saw its best year yet with all gardens beds being utilized this year, and the majority by members of the community, who got to know each other, and sharing a picnic

together with the Garden Committee. One of this year's community gardeners has already asked if he can reserve beds for his family for next year. Many thanks to Michael Luberts, Kris Nieto, Tim Tengesdal, and Gayle Halmo for their hard work.

Thanks to the work of Ellen McCracken, the Preschool Committee (Kay Schimke, Marlys Nessett, Julie Thiel, Paula Oty & Suzanne Gayda), Nancy Vignec, Mary Herem and Stefanie DeZarn the Spanaway Lutheran Church has hit its stride this year with full enrollment. I enjoy my chapel time with the kids every Monday. Hopefully next year we'll be able to add a second class.

Through the work of the church council under the leadership of the Every Member Engagement Task Force (John Briehl, Nancy Vignec, Chuck Nelson and Sharon Dillinger) we have begun the process of utilizing every member's gifts and talents for the common good. The council did extensive interviews with the membership to ascertain how each can serve most happily and usefully.

The world changes all around us, and thanks to the hard work of all our members we continue to be prepared and to welcome new members into our family of faith to proclaim to the world the hope for today and tomorrow made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peace,

*Pastor John Schier-Hanson*

**2017-18 Pastoral Acts Reports**

**Home Visits: 67**

**Hospital Visits: 33**

**Teaching Hours: 157**

<b>Baptisms: 1</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
Harmony Lustig	07-04-2015	02-25-2018

<b>Members Received by Transfer or Affirmation of Faith: 8</b>			
Micah Pedersen	04-08-2018	Bonnie Petek	04-08-2018
Katy Vogel	04-08-2018	Simone Manuela	04-08-2018
Taylor Mae Pedersen	04-08-2018	Bernd Lackemann	04-08-2018
Elizabeth Jones	04-08-2018	Dulce Lackemann	04-08-2018

<b>Members Received by Affirmation of Baptism: 1</b>	
Kaylah Newman	05-20-2018

<b>Weddings: 1</b>	
Nathaly Leon and DeMarcus Williams	08-26-2018

<b>Funerals and Memorial Services:</b>	<b>Date of:</b>	<b>Date of:</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Service</b>
Kathleen Keeton	March 21, 2018	May 6, 2018
Lenora Longfellow	August 8, 2018	August 25, 2018
Lori Lynne Nelson	August 20, 2018	September 28, 2018

<b>Funerals and Memorial Services:</b>	<b>Date of:</b>	<b>Date of:</b>
<b>Non-Members</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Service</b>
Michael Gayda	June 4, 2018	June 23, 2018

## 2018 Church Council Report

One year after observing the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation of the church, touched off by Martin Luther, the members of Spanaway Lutheran Church are looking to reform our organizational structure, in response to changes in our congregation. The latter is a “little r” reformation, but with a graying group such as ours, meeting the minimal personnel requirements of serving our mission to this community—of believers, and to the community where we meet—has increasingly become a challenge, and accommodations need to be considered.

Outreach programs and services, whose activities are detailed within this bound report, as well as the offerings of BASE and our Preschool programs (to name a couple,) to the very young in our area continue to serve as a testament to our commitment to the needs, material, intellectual and spiritual of our neighbors. Committee depopulation over the years however has challenged our ease of serving the ongoing needs of our church family.

This council has worked with committees as they attended to the business set before them, some functioning, or attempting to do so, with no leader. The reader may recall the points highlighted in our “20/20” goals of the last few years, including “Every Member Involvement.” “Mortgage Reduction” has made great strides, as we approach the halfway point toward our goal, in time for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. “Clear Communications” continues to be an ideal in which daily reflection and renewal is required, and a helping of humility.

“Every Member Engagement” is the heading under which our proposed committee reorganization is set and I wish to thank John Briehl, Nancy Vignec, Chuck Nelson and Sharon Dillinger for all their work in preparation for the 2019 implementation. Thanks especially for the large-scale EME inventory, the results of which have been compiled with the help of Office Manager Stefanie DeZarn, whose contributions to our office this year have been tremendous. In this task, a communication has been sent of the number and scope of jobs worked for this ministry to function.

Young people still come forward for the children’s sermon most every week, though the same cannot be said for our Sunday School time. While I have been known to serve as a Substitute Youth on those occasional Sundays when not a child is to be found in the sanctuary, I am somewhat past the age of filling that role in the classroom. In attempting to meet the needs of our youth with their ever-increasing time commitments, Youth Education proposes end-of-service time and activities in sync with our church year’s Lectionary as a whole family opportunity. I encourage you to review the Youth Education proposal and engage our volunteers as we strive to meet our promises to our successors.

I wish to thank the most recently-joining council members for stepping up to the commitment of making the decisions that need to be made as a part of our church’s operations: Doug Hedlund, no stranger to our council as well as newcomers Anne Briehl and Wednesday Warrior Glen Ruediger—your contributions are appreciated. Looking toward their third year on board, I extend best wishes to Angela Aponte, Rob DeZarn and Nancy Vignec: thank you all for your work. Secretary Louise Luberts, Vice President John Briehl and President Yours Truly have served our term (two for Louise!) On behalf of them, I thank the council for their advice, support and dedication. I wish to thank this Executive Board for all the above and meeting yet one more time each month with me. This role is not second nature to me, but with the right help, most anything can be accomplished.

Thanks to those souls who aid above and beyond the comings and goings of us council members. Thanks to Treasurer Mary Herem for her work managing our budgets, including preparation of the 2019 budget for which we will be voting on at the meeting. To Kathy Creso for her assistance in things financial, including processing our giving and monitoring

Mortgage Reduction, and the many office volunteers who keep on top of the needs of our congregation and community.

Thanks to Pastor John Schier-Hanson for his care for and of our congregation, and his willingness to roll up his sleeves for practically any needed task. Best wishes to Pastor Sara Schier-Hanson as she takes the call at the Tacoma Lutheran Home; they will be well served.

I thank you for the chance to serve our congregation in this role. As I step back to my prior position of General Assistance, I would like to volunteer, if the congregation will allow, for one of the two open non-council nominating board positions.

Please continue to keep our church Council in your prayers.

In Christ,

Gregg Wright Osborn

### **Food for Families Annual Report 2018**

Each week the faithful volunteers for Food for Families pick up food, greet the delivery and start the set up on Saturdays. Sunday starts with set up for our clients before church. After church we greet and distribute the food to the people who come to our door. We feed about five to then families each week. The families may be as small as one member or as large as six to eight. Many have children that accompany them on Sundays.

We purchase our food from the Empowerment center and are limited to what they have on hand. The Food Bank has generously shared when they have an abundance of items. As well as donations of our SLC family helps us serve our clients. Our donation basket is by the A Street entrance.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to be part of this ministry. We have openings in all aspects of our program. You can always come and see what is going on after church. We welcome your visits.

Louise Luberts

### **Miriam Circle Annual Report 2018**

Miriam circle meets at 7:30 on the second Monday evening of each month in the homes of the members. We have an informal Bible study under the leadership of Ruth Briehl.

This year we have been studying the book of Romans and have enjoyed using a variety of Bible translations.

Miriam Circle has started a new project: We have pledged to keep the Food Bank supplied with personal items for its clients such as soap, shampoo, toilet paper etc. Paula Oty has volunteered to be our shopper.

We continue to serve cookies for coffee hour on a regular basis.

We invite new people to join us at any time.

## **B.A.S.E (Before and After School Enrichment) Annual Report 2018**

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994 BASE opened to the neighborhood as a new outreach ministry of Spanaway Lutheran Church. It has been an honor and pleasure to celebrate 24 years in the ministry. We continue to maintain our excellent standards as we continue serving the community around us. We have a long serving team who is dedicated and passionate about providing quality care for our BASE kids.

We would like to say thank you to the Task force for their time and efforts. Working with everyone was a great opportunity to gain new perspectives and it opened the doors of communication. We are all working together following the Spanaway Lutheran Church mission; "To live as Gods people, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ!"

In June we provided the children with a week of praising God during VBS. This was open to Base kids, church families and the surrounding community. We learned about Gods attributes; greatness, authority, providence, power and love. A special thanks to Lydia Wise for leading the bible time and everyone who volunteered to make it a success!! The kiddos had fun, (and we did too), but most of all they were given the opportunity to have fun while praising the Mighty King.

Our children loved harvesting the vegetables in their garden plot. Thank you Mike Luberts!

This October we hosted a "Trick or Treat" Halloween event. This was open to friends and family of BASE, Church and the community. The children went to all of the decorated tables to play games and collect their treats. We were excited to see the huge turn out! Looking forward to more fun next year.

Our Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser was so huge that we sold all of our pumpkins in three hours. The fellowship hall was constantly filled with families enjoying the yummy pancake breakfast provided by the church. We saw many community members, Base, Church and Preschool families.

We are looking forward to an early Christmas as the kids and staff will celebrate our Franklin Graham shoe box packing party. This is a special time when children get to give back. Our goal this year is 230 shoeboxes. During our packing party the kids pack small gifts and toys collected by the children and staff. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who will be participating this year.

Our Secret Sister/Seahawk Buddy Program will be starting this November. We are blessed to be able to say this is our 4th year! It has been amazing to see some of the friendships continue all year long.

BASE staff would like to thank the following people who have enriched the lives of our children;

The BASE committee members: Scott Birdseye, Ealane Wollin, Judy Burwell, Nancy Tengesdal, Jeris Ockfen, Suzanne Gayda, Aletta Alford and Glen Ruediger, Mary Herem

Our homework gang: Pat Mills, Larry and Paula Oty

Our faithful story time reader: Dick Wollin

Our caroling team: Lydia and Frank Wise

Field trip volunteers: Pat Mills and Ealane Wollin,

Secret Pal Coordinators: Paula Oty and Ealane Wollin

Thank you for blessing our program. We appreciate you more than you know!

## **Ladies' Bible Study Annual Report 2018**

There are two opportunities at SLC for ladies' bible study and fellowship. All ladies are invited and encouraged to join us.

Sunday mornings we meet at 9 am upstairs in the Sunday school wing. January – May of 2018 we read and studied various scriptures on stress, fear, doubt, and other emotions that build a wall between us and our relationship with God and each other. We spent time in silent prayer teaching ourselves the importance of being quiet and silent before God enabling us to listen to God and really hear what his will in our lives is. In September we started the fall session with a study on the book of Galatians by Max Lucado. The Epistle to the Galatians, often shortened to Galatians, is the ninth book of the New Testament. It is a letter from Paul the Apostle to a number of Early Christian communities in Galatia. ...Paul is principally concerned with the controversy surrounding Gentile Christians and the Mosaic Law during the Apostolic Age. We have found many of the struggles of the early church still confront us today.

The first Tuesday of each month, we meet in the fellowship hall at 6pm. We use the bible study printed monthly in the ELCA monthly magazine Gather. Our current lessons have focused on repentance and how it effects our relationships with God, each other and the church as a whole.

June, July and August we met one Friday afternoon a month in the gardens of Diane Kraus, Gayle Halmo and Marjie Schulze for bible study, lunch and enjoying the beautiful gardens. We look forward to our time together! 2018 celebrated our fifth year of Garden Bible Study!

In April, a few SLC ladies attended the WELCA Synod gathering for a weekend of bible study, prayer, fellowship, singing, campfires, and lots of food! Social injustice was the theme of the weekend. Not an easy topic to discuss, but we came away aware of the many problems that exist in the Pacific Northwest and ideas of how to become involved. The Black Diamond Camp was a beautiful setting and the weather was beautiful. We have plans to invite a large group from SLC to attend in the spring of 2019.

Pray about a time that works for you and JOIN us! Get to know the ladies you worship with every Sunday and work beside, being the hands and feet of God. You will be blessed! Bibles, coffee, lessons, friendship, and music are all provided. Come as you are!

## **Quilters Annual Report 2018**

Quilters meet each Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. 45 quilts were given to WIC (Women, Infants, Children) in Spanaway, to students in need in the Bethel School District, to Wounded Warriors, to high school graduating seniors, and to children baptized.

More women from the congregation would be welcomed. Still attending are Leta Kremer, Pat Ward, Pat Rants (Carole Winking's cousin), and Barbara Williams. Without them, there would be a very small crew indeed: Krys Salter, Charlotte Surridge, Lois Svinth, Debbie Drahos, and Dianne Kennedy-Svec (as health allows).

It would be a real loss to the community and congregation to have this mission collapse because of lack of interest.

Lois Svinth

## **Congregational Life Committee Annual Report 2018**

Committee: Congregational Life

Meeting Time: Second Sunday of the month, immediately following worship

Members: Aletta Alford (Chair), Bonnie Doyle, Diane Parsons, Doug Briehl

Council Liaison: Anne Briehl

It is that time again, but FIRST THINGS FIRST!

All of you need a really BIG THANK YOU, not only to the several groups that have coordinated and hosted specific Sunday coffee hour/fellowship time, but also to everyone who has helped when asked and those of you who have often asked “*what do you need and when*”! Everyone that has assisted with set up, clean up, baking and serving has helped make the weekly coffee hour special.

We celebrated the following special events:

Thanksgiving

Christmas Cookie Sunday

Christmas

New Year’s

Valentine’s Day

St. Patrick’s Day

Feed and Seed for Community Garden

Easter

4<sup>th</sup> of July

New Member Welcome Luncheon

Mother’s Day

Confirmation Sunday

Graduation Celebration

Father’s Day

Ice Cream Sundays

Birthday Sundays

‘Crazy’ Sunday

Veterans Day

And let’s not forget, coordination of Lenten and Advent Soup Suppers

We hope that everyone has enjoyed the different events throughout the year. The CL Committee knows that if it weren’t for all of the different volunteers and contributors and those ready and willing to help, these events could not come together as smoothly and seamlessly as they have, so thank you to all for helping to make our Fellowship Hour as special as it is. The committee is wide open to suggestions for new themes and ideas to enhance the coffee hour in the coming year. Please contact any of the committee members and we will try to make it happen! We are always open to new faces to join the committee, so please consider joining us!

Congregational Life Committee

## **Health Resource Annual Report 2018**

The purpose of Spanaway Lutheran’s Health and Safety Fiesta was to provide free services to our community. These services included flu shots, school health exams, informational booths staffed by community organizations, games and lunch for all.

Planning for the event began in May with about 40 SLC members working on various projects. Leadership was in the person of Carrie Ching (from Molina Health Care) and funding was from Molina and Thrivent.

About 260 people attended.

Jeris Ockfen

## **Paint Tacoma Pierce Beautiful Annual Report 2018**

Group: SLC Team for Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful

Meeting Time: August 1, 11 and 18, 2018

Coordinators: John & Mary Herem, herem@comcast.net or 253-847-0778.

This year, 23 people volunteered over 210 hours as SLC painted its 28<sup>th</sup> home. We embodied God's Work, Our Hands by painting for Marilyn Steen, a retired Bon employee who grew up in a home built in 1900 and expanded by her father. The house turned out beautiful and amazed Marilyn and her cousins who live with her.

Mary and John Herem thank the SLC team for their dedication and excellent work. We know the crew will show up each year and do selfless work without complaints. SLC members included Iver Eliason, Dale Dillinger, Steve Howe, Laurie Howe, Suzanne Gayda, Ron Morris, Glen Ruediger, Lani Briehl, John Briehl, Kaylin Aponte, Dustin Willoughby, Elois Macdonald, Sharon Tupa Blacksten, Steve Blacksten, Pastor John Schier-Hanson, Mary Herem and John Herem. Non-SLC team members included Marilyn Steen, Jenny Laycock (BASE), Jocelyn Frazier (Jenny's daughter), Rick Ward, Pat Ward, John Adams and Alex Dillinger Norberg (Dale and Sharon Dillinger's grandson).

Mary and John Herem thank the SLC team for their dedication and excellent work. Please keep your calendar clear next July/August and join us as we paint our 29<sup>th</sup> home.



## **Physical Administration Committee Annual Report 2018**

No report submitted – not a standing committee, no chair, no members

## **Sunday School Annual Report 2018**

No report submitted – Sunday school is on hold due to lack of regular attendance

## **Community Garden Annual Report 2018**

2018 started out with expansion of the garden from 11 – 4' x 2' beds to 27 beds, including expansion of the water system. We also removed several cottonwood stumps. We now have 11 fruit trees, 9 blueberry bushes, a row of raspberries, strawberry plants, 2 grape plants and herb plants. Spring arrived and we had very good response and so all 27 beds were taken and ¾ of them were from the community. We had very successful growing season and were very much encouraged. Because of the success we decided to expand for the next season. We have started that process, which involved removing the lone oak tree by the “B” street gate. We have the ditches dug for expanding the water system to the new area. We now have a storage container to store our tools and supplies. One other success is that we have not had any vandalism since we started the project, it must be God’s protective hand on the garden. We are still dealing with the Japanese Knotweed, which will be ongoing for many ears.

Special thanks to all who have made our garden a great success as a community outreach project, which includes many community businesses.

When you have a chance come down and check out the garden and see the transformation of what used to be an overgrown unsightly area.

Michael Luberts for the Community Garden

## **Preschool Annual Report 2018**

**Committee name:** SLC Preschool Advisory Board

**Meeting time:** Monthly

**Committee members:** Kay Schimke, Paula Oty, Marlys Nessel, Suzanne Gayda, Ellen McCracken, Mary Herem

**Committee Chair:** Ellen McCracken

**Council Liaison:** Nancy Vignec

**Committee Mission:** We believe in an environment that embodies the spirit of acceptance, tolerance, and appreciation for every child. Praying, learning, and growing together.

**Describe 5 activities this committee is most proud of accomplishing in the current year:**

1. Sixth year in operation.
2. Enrollment increase growth.
3. Updated Preschool enrollment packet on SLC Webpage – updated on Facebook.
4. New Preschool Handbook completed Fall 2018.
5. New Gate installed for outdoor activities (courtyard).
6. Rug shampooed and entire room cleaned summer 2018.
7. Continuing Ed courses May/August/October of 2018.
8. New field trip to Spana Senior Center in February 2018.
9. Recruited new volunteers.

**Proudest accomplishment of 2018:**

Updated website online enrollment packet, Facebook presence, social media presence, Parent Handbook (current).

**What mission oriented activities are planned for 2018?**

Family Nights, Open House (Aug.), Math Night (Nov.), Christmas Program (Dec.), Conference Week (Oct. & March), End of Year Celebration (June), Field Trips

**What two things are this committee planning for 2018?**

1. Career Presentations
2. Field Trips
3. Kindergarten Visit May 2019

**Where can members find the details of this committee's activities?**

Monthly Preschool newsletters, Facebook, Lamplighter

**How are you seeking members?**

N/A

**In what ways has this committee invited new members to participate in your mission?**

You are always open to participate in preschool, open to whole congregation to help and volunteer, i.e. come and be a guest reader.

**What needs would you like the congregation to know about?**

Children Are Our Future.

Submitted by Ellen McCracken, Preschool Teacher/Director

## **Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2018**

**Committee Name:** Stewardship Committee

**Meeting Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, normally at 6 p.m.

**Committee Members:**

The following congregational members worked on stewardship issues during 2018, including the Mortgage Reduction Sub-Committee -- Susanne Delisle, Jim Halmo, Jeris Ockfen and Tracy Nieto (Chair of the Mortgage Reduction effort)

**Committee Chair:** Jim Halmo

**2018 Council Liaison:** Doug Hedlund

**Committee Mission:**

To provide oversight and direction for the congregation's stewardship life and to encourage all members of the congregation to be fruitful stewards of the Lord's gifts.

**2018 Activities:**

The Committee continued its follow-up to the Church Council's "20/20" project proposal to obtain involvement from every church member, provide clearer communications on church matters, and to reduce the church mortgage. As a result of the Church Council's recommendation to reduce our long-term mortgage debt, the Committee continued its focus on measures to see how this might be best achieved. The Lamplighter has come to serve as a weekly reminder of how much has been paid off. The annual pledge drive card has been modified to permit church members specify how much they will be contribution for both the General Fund as well as the Mortgage Reduction Fund in 2019. Thus, the Finance Committee will have a better guide on how we well be approaching 2019 funding as a congregation. Currently the church pays out almost \$4,000 monthly in mortgage principal and interest. By paying down the mortgage with additional principal only payments, the amount of interest that must be paid on the principal likewise decreases monthly. The Committee continued to consider ways to pay off our mortgage by our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Committee offered short Lamplighter articles this fall on "Becoming What We Sing," continuing the focus on last year's 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Luther said "next of the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Music allows us to sing what we want to say to our Lord and to our neighbors in life. We are all 'Singing Stewards,' even if we have 'cracked' singing voices. God does not judge our singing ability!

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### **Ongoing 2018 Activities into 2019s:**

The whole “20/20” campaign will clearly be an ongoing endeavor past 2018.

Periodic updates on the level of giving towards the mortgage pay-down will appear in The Lamplighter. The congregation’s response to-date has been very rewarding and the Committee seeks to encourage continuation of each member’s faithful giving.

The Committee will be reviewing the Council’s 2018 “Every Member Involvement” results for prospective new members on the Committee. It looks forward for new ideas and suggestions for a 2019 Stewardship program focusing on Spanaway Lutheran as ‘a welcoming church,’ and how to focus on being a more active ‘inviting’ church from a missional perspective.

Jim Halmo for the Stewardship Committee

### **Wednesday Warriors Annual Report 2018**

**Committee Name:** Wednesday Warriors

**Meeting Time:** Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM.

**Warriors:** Retired guys willing to help on Wednesdays. Regulars include Iver Eliason, Larry Parsons, Paul Matthias, Tim Tengesdal, Glen Ruediger, John Herem and Dustin Willoughby (when not working). Michael Luberts, Doug Hedlund and Steve Howe typically don’t join the Warriors on Wednesday but stay busy working on church projects.

**Committee Chair:** None of us take responsibility for the group, but John Herem wrote this report.

**Committee Mission:** Repair and maintain the church facility and grounds then eat lunch at Taco Bell.

**Activities:** As in the past, we worked a little and talked a lot. We saved the church expenses through self-help repairs and maintenance. We repaired whatever people wrote in the fix-it book. We kept the grounds irrigated, mowed, weeded and cleaned up after vagrants. We used blowers to keep the parking lots clear. Tim Tengesdal replaced HVAC filters each quarter.

### **Specific accomplishments in 2018:**

1. Michael Luberts installed electric blinds in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School annex.
2. Michael Luberts expanded the community garden by procuring, installing and painting a storage unit.
3. Michael Luberts and Tim Tengesdal discovered the source of a water leak that cost the church thousands of dollars in water bills.
4. Doug Hedlund fixed a bizarre water line leak above the copy room door and two roof leaks.
5. Doug Hedlund arranged a contract to install a security fence and gate for the courtyard area.
6. Doug Hedlund arranged a contract to restripe the parking lots.
7. John Herem installed a new sanctuary projector and moved two others to the Fellowship Hall and conference room.
8. Using a Thrivent grant arranged by John Herem, we replaced and stained bench tops in the courtyard.
9. Using a Thrivent grant arranged by the Pastor, we repainted the Food Bank and storage CONEX.
10. Although not yet complete, John Briehl, Larry Parsons and John Herem used pressure washers to remove moss from parking lots. Glen Ruediger dusted the lots with baking soda to kill the moss.

## **Worship & Music Committee Annual Report 2018**

**Committee Name:** Worship and Music

**Meeting Time:** 5:00 PM, the second Tuesday of each month

**Committee Members:** John Herem, Laurie Howe, Lydia Wise, Dale Kraus, Jeannette Frieson

**Committee Staff Members:** Pastor John Schier-Hanson, Cheryl Drewes

**2018 Council Liaison:** Pastor Schier-Hanson

**Committee Chair:** John Herem

**Committee Mission:** Congregation members come to church expecting a meaningful service that runs smoothly and reflects the seasons and traditions of being a Lutheran. Our committee works with church staff to plan worship and music for the church year.

Ongoing activities include: hanging seasonal colors; organizing children sermons, organizing assisting ministers, communion servers, acolytes, ushers, altar guild, greeters and lectors; selecting and practicing eclectic music for all services; planning services and decorating the sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons; building contemporary and classic services in the EasyWorship program for screen display; composing bulletins; and of course, writing sermons.

**This past year included special actions.**

1. We posted and maintained flyers for all volunteer positions related to worship services on a new Worship & Music bulletin board.
2. We used a \$1000 Madeline Sturm memorial to purchase musical equipment (amplifier, music stands, monitor speaker, microphones, wireless headsets, et al.)
3. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we purchased and installed a new sanctuary projector. We moved the old sanctuary projector to the Fellowship Hall and that projector to the conference room.
4. For “God’s Work Our Hands” Sunday in September, we conducted a shortened service, with a volunteerism theme and slideshow and then worked on church grounds projects.
5. We started a new program called “The Way,” which helps engage and integrate new Christians and new members into the life of the congregation and teaches the basic forms and elements of Christian life together.
6. We agreed to exclude announcements from high services (All Saints, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost).
7. We permanently switched from two Christmas Eve services to one service at 7 PM. (We still have a Christmas Day service.)

## **Youth and Youth Education Annual Report 2018**

**Chair:** Stefanie DeZarn

**Members:** Kaylin Aponte, Gregg Wright Osborn (ex-officio), Laurel Wright Osborn (Peace Lutheran feeding coordinator), Sara Schier-Hanson, Jennifer Newman, Ellen McCracken, Marlys Nessel

Council Representative: Rob DeZarn

**Main Youth Involvement – Connect**

Connect has seen a small boost in participation and a new group of PLU students leading the joint endeavor between SLC and Trinity Lutheran.

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**Youth Activities** – The committee hosted several events this last year some of the highlights are as follows:

- Two volunteer events with Peace Lutheran to feed the community
- SCL sponsored three youth to attend Annual Youth Gathering (Maiya and Annie McAuliffe, Kayla Newman)
- A variety of outings such as Bowling (6 youth) and Putt Putt (2 youth)
- The youth Valentine's Day celebration (14 kids, 6 adults)
- Easter Celebration (15 kids, 7 adults)
- Earth Day Community Event (7 kids, 4 adults)

**Upcoming Events** – Youth Auction tentatively scheduled for 9 February 2019

### **Major Note – Status of SLC Sunday school**

The Sunday school has seen a major decline in participation. It was so bad that we decided to adjust the time, and when that didn't work, the format itself. The committee has discussed several different ideas on how to proceed, while temporarily suspending normal Sunday school teaching and activities. We are working on an interim solution, while we attempt to receive new members and families in the future. More to follow as this develops.

### **Food Bank Annual Report 2018**

The Spanaway Food Bank is operated by four churches, Spanaway Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, United Methodist and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. It is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with each church serving every four weeks. Coordinators are responsible for obtaining volunteers for their week. Gayle Halmo is Spanaway Lutheran's coordinator. The Director of the Food Bank is Harold "Smokey" Smith. He is responsible for the overall running of the Food Bank. General meetings are held for all volunteers 1 – 2 times a year. A Food Bank Board of Directors has been set up that will meet quarterly. Board members include Smokey, the coordinators of the four churches plus a book keeper.

Food is obtained from the Emergency Food Network (EFN), through donations - both food and monetary - from the churches, and community food drives. A new venue this year is two large warehouses in Fife and Puyallup that supplies commissaries. They are donating pallets of excess food weekly. We get bread from the Franz Bakery Outlet and occasionally from local grocery stores. Smokey orders/purchases and coordinates the deliveries of food items. Volunteers bag the canned and non-perishable items (commodity bags) each week. Smokey also oversees the building maintenance including the freezers (6) and refrigerators (4), heating, and fans.

The mission of the Food Bank is to improve the health and well-being of the low- income individuals and families by providing the necessary food ingredients to make three nutritious meals a day for 3 consecutive days. No one needing assistance is turned away. This year we are focusing on the homeless population, giving out individually packaged items and pop-top cans to prevent wasteful dumping of unwanted items. Bins have been set up in the distribution room for these items. Separate homeless bags with ready to eat foods are available if someone comes to the door during non-food bank hours.

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Each church coordinator organizes 15 to 20 volunteers to serve in the food bank each week. We serve an average of 350 families a month (1,200 individuals) giving out 48 lbs. of food per family, and distributing 14,682 lbs. of food a month, which is more than many Food Banks. Interviewers sign-in clients for each visit. Boxers bag fresh produce and load up a cart for each family that includes a commodity bag, meat, butter, eggs, cheese, cereals, produce and breads. Also cat and dog food for the 4-footed family members is provided. In addition, we provide personal items such as shampoo, soaps, toothpaste and brushes, razors, baby food and diapers, laundry and dish detergents. Donations are needed and appreciated for these items. We receive some generous monetary donations during the year from our churches. Our current bank account is at \$6,000. Items are purchased at Costco and an account has been set up at Grocery Outlet for larger purchases of canned goods when needed.

The Food Bank attempts to provide special items for the holidays. Food Bank funds are not used to purchase holiday turkeys; only money specifically designated to buy turkeys can be used, because of the expense involved. Generally, we have some generous donations and we have some turkeys to hand out. Canned goods and other holiday foods are provided. This year 60-70 turkeys are being donated by United Methodist Church for Thanksgiving. Money for stuffing was donated by Spanaway Harbor Stone Credit Union. Fresh sweet potatoes will be purchased.

The Food Bank needs continued maintenance. Repairs were made on fans and there is continuous maintenance on refrigerators and freezers. Two new chest freezers were purchased to hold warehouse donations. The Food Bank also received a fresh coat of new paint by Spanaway Lutheran Church. Since the Food Bank has not been affiliated with FISH for a number of years, the word FISH was removed from the Spanaway Food Bank sign by Dennis Wildfang (SLC).

A new committee has been formed to start the process of planning for a new Food Bank building to be located on church property. It will be a metal building similar in size and configuration of our current building but with running water and bathrooms! (The current structure will be torn down.) Grants are being looked into and applied for to finance the new building. Committee members include Pastor John Schier-Hanson, Smokey, and 3 or more members of each of the four churches, meeting every 1-2 months. We are hoping to build in about 2 years.

The Food Bank always needs volunteers during the days it is open and on Tuesdays when pallets are picked up and large shipments are being delivered. We are fortunate in having some consistent volunteers to bag commodity items and do general cleaning and maintenance. Volunteers can also help with shopping at Costco and Cash & Carry. Volunteering one time a month is all the time that is needed to keep our Food Bank running smoothly. Contact Gayle Halmo if you would like to help. Also check the Food Bank Bulletin Board at the 'A' Street entry for updates and needs. Drop any donations in the large basket below the bulletin board.

Thanks to all who serve our community by volunteering and donating to the Food Bank.

Submitted by Gayle Halmo, Food Bank Coordinator.

## **Council Nominations**

**Bernd Lackemann**

**John Briehl**